JUL 19 1926

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Photo 11

July 10, 1926

This photograph was made from a very dirty negative, covered with dust that appears as snowflake-like specks across the print. Some images in the series required almost no cleanup; this one was the opposite. A careful restoration made it more readable without removing the original detail that remained.

Two workers stand over a rail spur in the foreground. One appears to be holding a large iron bar whose shaped end may have been used for pulling rail spikes. Behind them are bundled rebar and upright cages, with rough lumber, steel, shadow, and utility lines layered through the scene.

The photograph is especially strong as a composition. The rail line, stacked materials, and diagonal framework carry the eye through the image, while workers appear at several depths within the construction site.

The figures in the background deserve a closer look. Three distinct styles of hat are visible, including a tall, broad-brimmed hat worn by the man at far right. Its exact origin cannot be determined from the photograph, but the variation in clothing offers a small glimpse of the individuals within a workforce whose names and personal histories are largely unknown.

Sometimes a hat is simply a hat. In a photograph like this, however, even the shape of a brim can encourage a closer look at the people behind the construction.

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Detail: Worker in cap

The worker in the foreground wears a close-fitting cap typical of practical work clothing from the period.

Detail: Workers behind the rebar

Two partially obscured workers wear noticeably different hat styles. Their identities are unknown, but the enlargement makes their individual presence easier to see.